1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5

144 Before going into detail about the nature of the Atimelang village complex, a few comments should be made on the physical type of its inhabitants. No generalizations are possible for the island as a whole. The Atimelangers are predominantly Oceanic Negroids although naturally strains of Oceanic Mongoloid blood may be detected. In any event, they cannot be thought of in terms of Indonesian populations.
147 Their physical composition has been studied by Dr. Brouwer,* and it is in part on his description that the next few statements are based. The average stature of males is about five feet one inch, that of females between four feet nine and four feet ten inches. Hair varies from wavy to kinky, skin color from light bronze to black, and red pigmentation in hair and skin is detectable in many individuals. Noses are short and of medium width, heads are long, and faces are often pentagonal. A com-
[148] bination of features and stature suggests a pygmoid strain in many individuals.

161 There is no conclusive evidence that the population of Alor is increasing, although the government tax list shows an augmentation of about ten thousand in the last decade. It is quite probable that this represents only better census taking, not a true increase. But certainly the population is not decreasing; my own rather inadequate statistics from Atimelang indicate that four children per woman grow to adulthood.
[165] This is more than enough to maintain the population level, despite a mortality rate of 48 per cent before adolescence. The excellent health
● 164 program instituted by the government has probably reduced the death rate; certainly smallpox epidemics no longer sweep the island as they once did. At present the most common diseases are dysenteries, respiratory infections, malaria, and yaws. The last, though seldom fatal, is extremely common in Atimelang, and few children escape the devastating skin lesions of its first stage. The possible effect on personality of these debilitating diseases, often suffered in acute form during childhood, is worth bearing in mind.

361 Atimelang is often called the Five Village district. It lies in large
162 part within the valley described above and has a relatively dense population. Within a radius of about one mile there are some six hundred people scattered among four major villages and their offspring hamlets. On the eastern side of the valley lies Atimelang and its two hamlets of Folafeng and Farsmasang, with a total population of approximately 180 inhabitants. Closely allied to Atimelang by intermarriage is Lawstika, the fifth village of the complex, with about 100 people. Its population is scattered through three hamlets lying on the difficult slopes of the

*D. Brouwer, *Bijdrage tot de anthropologie der Alorezilanden* (Amsterdam, n.d.).

1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5

857
[64

Padafan sees a toy balloon that I gave some older children. Note the first lesions of yaws on his chest.

He says, "Mo" (give), one of the few words he has mastered.

It is his! He immediately examines the ear of this cat-faced balloon.

He nurses on it to the delight of older children who urge him to continue after his first disappointment.

[p. 3297

1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5

855 matter-of-fact rather than punishing—unless, of course, the child rebels at this experience, has a tantrum, and annoys the parent. Bathing, however, does not occur very frequently in most households, certainly not more often than every two or three days.

[149] In addition to normal discomforts, yaws, which are so prevalent in childhood, may present an aggravating factor that makes a bath a painful experience. In the early stage of the disease the body, including often the lips and the genitals, may be covered with lesions, which smart acutely in contact with water. Children with yaws will scream [152] with pain and rage when they are bathed. However, since all sorts of infections may set in and since there is a pussy discharge from the lesions, parents usually feel it necessary to keep the child clean. To make matters worse, in recent years some parents have been buying from [157] Chinese traders on the coast a caustic powder, which they apply to the wounds to dry them. There can be no doubt that the application of this medicine causes extreme pain, and since it is put on after bathing, there must be in the minds of many children an association between baths and the intense pain inflicted by the mothers.

152. Fuifani, a little girl of about five, was a case in point. For weeks she 855 had been having rages of hysterical intensity in connection with baths 865 and the caustic treatment of her yaws. The attacks would set in before the mother began to wash her and continued often for twenty minutes, by actual timing, after the bath. They usually subsided only when she was in a state of complete physical exhaustion. During the rages she would scream, strike at her mother, and jump up and down. After the bath she would refuse to allow her mother to comfort her. Strangely enough she made no effort to run away, perhaps because she realized the futility of doing so.

855 Some weeks later the doctor from the coast visited the mountains, 865 and Fuifani was given an injection that healed her wounds within about seven days. However, the tantrums associated with bathing continued for weeks after her sores were healed. On one occasion she raged half an hour after the end of the bath. Her mother held her while a man poured the water on her as though it were all a fine game. When the child was clean, the mother put her to dry on the verandah of a guesthouse, where she rolled about screaming, kicking, striking out, and banging her head on the floor. Another man passed by and threatened to pour more water on her if she didn't stop, a threat that had no effect and which he did not carry out.

865 Another child, who had been calmer about his bath, was brought up to shame Fuifani into silence. This too had no effect. Her small brother

1:Du Bois E-5 (1938-1939) 1944
OF5 Alor OF5

women. The only thing they said was, "Come, we shall go to our father." But I thought they were evil spirits and I said, "No, I am going off to dun." I didn't know they were supernatural beings. At that time I didn't know there was a Good Beings' village above Mt. Laling. The women asked me again to go up with them, but I wouldn't. 159x

Then I went to Kafoi and in two days I came back. On the way back I didn't see anything.

When I went to Kafoi, the people from Fungwati were busy preparing for their Good Beings [1917 or 1918]. Shortly after I came back, the radjah went there and was killed. Then the war began. I had a big house at the time, but I went to sleep in my small field house. Once I was lying there on my back looking up when a frond of coconut or aren palm fell on my chest. As this fell, it was suddenly light in the house, as though a lamp were lighted. I looked but I did not hear or see anything. This was a tally of their coming [resembling the split coconut leaf used as a tally in connection with invitations to feasts]. [48]

Then after the war was over, an official came and gave out tax slips. There was a dance that night at the government camp. As I stood watching it the officials told me to join in. I told them I had a fever, so they said I should go lie down and sleep. I went to my house and slept. I heard someone call. I looked out the front and back doors but saw no one. Then the one who had called struck a storage basket up in the loft. I looked up into the loft and saw a person, who said to me, "Now the government is changing everything right and left. You must follow the government. If you don't they will beat you. You must not eat crabs, crayfish, or fish." I said, "Come down." He said, "No, I only came to say what I have said." A big wind blew as he went up from the first loft to the second. He parted the thatch as one opens a window and went out. One bundle of thatch fell down where he had left. [Note that Malelaka reported fever at the time. This was probably malaria, since it is endemic in Alumetang. He also had an enlarged spleen. In general, how many of the sincere hallucinations were attributable to delirium? People took fever so much for granted that they scarcely noticed a high temperature or thought it worth mentioning.] [51] [48] [47]

At that time I was not yet married. Shortly after that I bought Lonfani. One day I was doing *corvée* on the new government camp. I was stamping down the earth floor. The kapitan shouted at me to work. I said, "You call only me to work. There are many other people here also." Then the kapitan took a rattan switch and stood alongside me. [51] [48]